

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ELISEO VASQUEZ MEDINA: AN
ORGANIZER'S ORGANIZER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Eliseo Medina, executive director of Local 2028 of the Service Employees International Union and the newly-elected executive vice president of the Service employees International Union, who will be honored with a Leadership Award by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council on April 27, 1996.

Eliseo Vasquez Medina entered the labor movement through the table grape vineyards of Delano, in California's San Joaquin Valley, where he joined the grape strike led by Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO in 1965. Quickly recognized as a natural leader and organizer, he was sent by Cesar Chavez to Chicago with a phone number and a bag of buttons to head up what became a successful boycott organization in the Midwest. From there he was sent wherever the need existed for his energy, intelligence, and organizational skills.

Within a few years, Eliseo Medina was elected to the executive board of the United Farm Workers, where he became second vice-president to Cesar Chavez. When the Agricultural Labor Relations Act was passed in California, he returned to lead numerous successful election drives and negotiate numerous historic contracts.

Beginning in 1978, Eliseo Medina began the second part of his career as an organizer in diverse industries. He was tapped by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees [AFSCME] to organize employees of the University of California. Thereafter, he moved on to organize the Teas State Employees Union.

Five years later, the Service Employees International Union brought him to San Diego, where he has led and honed its Local 2028, increasing its membership threefold and providing service and leadership to thousands of my constituents in the 50th District of California.

Just this week, Eliseo Medina returned to Chicago, where the Service Employees International Union elected him to one of its highest levels of leadership, executive vice-president.

Mr. Speaker, I join labor leaders in San Diego and across the country in congratulating Eliseo Medina for receiving the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council's Leadership Award. I know he will always be striving to improve the quality of life for the working people of San Diego.

TRIBUTE TO THE CONCERNED
CITIZENS OF BELLEVILLE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special group of Americans from the Eighth Congressional District of New Jersey. Sally Hood, Lyda Panko, John Piecuch, Carol Smith, Angelo Veneziano, and Louise Cordasco, all founding trustees of the Concerned Citizens of Belleville, have embodied the definition of public service.

The individuals who make up the Concerned Citizens of Belleville have maintained a successful civic organization truly dedicated to the service and the betterment of the greater Belleville community. And, as they celebrate their 10th anniversary, I am proud and honored to offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes.

These citizens have given generously of their time, energy, and resources in order to foster goodwill and benevolence throughout their community. The Concerned Citizens of Belleville reminds all of us that a community is most profoundly changed not by huge, impersonal institutions, but by people determined to make a positive difference.

The Concerned Citizens of Belleville's 10 years of enduring dedication to their neighbors and friends has brought a sense of great pride and accomplishment to the community. Congratulations for a job well done.

HONORING THE TROUSDALE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Trousdale County Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike

and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I would like to take a moment to commend my Republican colleagues and Chairman LIVINGSTON for the tremendous progress made in returning fiscal responsibility to Washington.

The Congressional Budget Office recently projected the 1996 budget deficit will fall to \$144 billion. This is due to the commitment of the Republican led Congress to rein in unwieldy Federal spending. We have cut spending to its lowest level in 14 years. This means a \$23 billion savings for American taxpayers over last year. In fact, my colleagues and I have saved taxpayers \$43 billion since gaining control of the Congress in 1995.

We have had to stand tough against the old, big spending culture of Washington. A great deal of credit must go to Chairman LIVINGSTON who has refused to raise spending caps or take spending off-budget. He insisted on finding offsets to pay for \$1.3 billion in disaster aid, rather than adding to the deficit. In addition, my colleagues and I have reduced the Federal bureaucracy and eliminated wasteful programs.

The Republican led Congress has continued to fulfill its promise to the American people. We put the brakes on out of control spending and produced the largest down turn in Federal spending in history. We will continue to make tough decisions and keep on our glidepath to a balanced budget.

CLINTON'S BLIND EYE TOWARD
IRAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House Committee on International Relations held a timely hearing on U.S. policy toward Bosnia which delved into charges that the Clinton administration tacitly allowed Iran to ship arms to Bosnia via Croatia. Unfortunately, there were more serious questions raised during the course of that hearing than were answered by administration representatives.

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